

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-07 AID-10

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 PM-03 DODE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 DRC-01 /061 W

----- 052175

O 280110Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8168

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4119

LIMDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR TO LAZAR ARA/CEN

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 4081 AND 4083

1. ON SEPTEMBER 26 AFTER SPENDING A TOTAL OF TWO DAYS AND ONE NIGHT AT U.S. OPERATIONS CENTERS IN LA MESA AIRPORT AND FLYING VARIOUS MISSIONS, AMBASSADOR RETURNED TO TEGUCIGALPA AND ARRANGED HURRIED SESSION WITH COL. HERNANDEZ, GOH CHIEF OF STAFF AND HEAD OF COPEN. AMBASSADOR SHARED WITH COL. HERNANDEZ HIS PERSONAL OBSERVATION OF REDISTRIBUTION CENTERS WHERE U.S. HELICOPTERS WERE UNABLE TO CARRY FULL LOADS FOR LACK OF RAPID FLOW OF SUPPLIES ARRIVING FROM LA MESA AIRPORT. I TOLD HIM OF GROWING RUMORS THAT MANY OF THE SUPPLIES WERE BEING SPIRITED OFF TO MILITARY WAREHOUSES. I TOLD HIM WE HAD FAIRLY GOOD IDEA OF ALL LANDINGS AND DISCHARGES AT LA MESA AIRPORT AND WE WERE UNABLE TO RECONCILE THESE WITH THE OUTFLOW. SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT COL. HERNANDEZ PERSONALLY LOOK INTO THESE MATTERS IN ORDER TO PREVENT POSSIBILITIES OF MAJOR SCANDAL WHICH MIGHT DAMAGE CURRENT AND FUTURE AID TO HONDURAN PEOPLE. COL. CROWE, MILGP CHIEF, ACCOMPANIED ME.

2. COL. HERNANDEZ SEEMED GENUINELY SINCERE IN HIS PROFUSE THANKS AND PARTICULARLY STRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH THE INFORMATION WAS TRNASMITTED TO HIM. HE TOLD US
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HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO HANDLE THE MATTER

THROUGH HIS (HONDURAN) CHANNELS AND STATED THAT THAT VERY DAY (IT WAS NOW 5:15 PM) HE WOULD PERSONALLY APPOINT AN INVESTIGATOR.

3. COMMENT: IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT RUMORS LIKE THESE HAD REACHED COL. HERNANDEZ BEFORE, BUT HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE FACT THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO HIM BY SOURCES SUCH AS OURS.

4. AS WE DEPARTED COL. HERNANDEZ AGAIN EXPRESSED ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF HONDURAS HIS DEEPEST APPRECIATION FOR OUR HELP AND OUR ATTITUDE.
SANCHEZ

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